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State Budget Agreement Reached

Education remains top priority; no new taxes on Michigan families

LANSING – Republican lawmakers and the governor reached an agreement yesterday on a state budget that places heavy emphasis on education – without raising any new taxes on Michigan families, Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, announced today.

“This budget reflects the priorities of the Republican Legislature, and maintains that education and health care remain top priorities,” said Stamas, vice-chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. “Michigan families can rest assured that they will face no new taxes, and will benefit from a balanced budget that will move Michigan’s economy forward.”

Many of the issues fought for by the Republican Legislature were agreed upon, including preserving the Merit Award Scholarship at its \$2,500 level, keeping scheduled road projects on track and, most importantly, balancing the state budget without any new taxes.

“I am pleased that the legislature and the administration were able to come together to find a solution to a difficult budget,” said Stamas, chair of the Senate Appropriations Department of Community Health subcommittee. “A fiscally responsible budget with no new taxes was our goal, and I am also pleased our goal was reached in a cooperative fashion for Michigan families.”

Among the provisions in the budget sought for by Sen. Stamas include funding for a feasibility study for a new interchange near I-75 in Ogemaw County and \$773,000 to help fight Bovine TB in the state.